CLAIMS

1.   A method for identifying and removing given content files from a set of content servers in a content delivery network, comprising:

5   identifying a set of one or more content files to be removed from the content delivery network;

pushing an aggregate purge request to each of a set of staging servers, each aggregate purge request including an identifier for each content file to be removed from the

10 content delivery network; and

periodically, having each of the set of content servers obtain the aggregate purge request from a given staging server, and

at each content server, purging from the content

15 server each content file identified in the aggregate purge request.

2.   The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the aggregate purge request is pushed to the each of the set of

20 staging servers over a secure link.

3.   The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the aggregate purge request is pulled from the given staging

server to each of the set of content servers over a secure link.

4. The method as described in Claim 1 further
5 including the step of issuing a notification that each content file identified in the aggregate purge request has been purged from the content delivery network.

5. The method as described in Claim 1 further
10 including the step of issuing a notification that each content file identified in the aggregate purge request has been accepted for purging.

6. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the
15 step of identifying the set of one or more content files to be removed from the content delivery network includes the step of verifying that a user requesting removal is authorized to purge the content files.

20 7. The method as described in Claim 6 wherein the user is a content delivery network customer.

8. The method as described in Claim 6 wherein the user is a content delivery network administrator.

9.   A purge server for use in a content delivery

network wherein third party content is cached on and served

from a set of content servers in response to end user

requests, comprising:

5   a processor; and

        code executable by the processor for (a) receiving

purge requests from a plurality of content provider

customers, (b) for each purge request, validating a file

identifier as being associated with a content file that may

10   be purged from the content delivery network; (c)

aggregating into a batch purge request a set of identifiers

that have been validated; and (d) issuing the batch purge

request to enable purging of the content files associated

with the validated identifiers.

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10. A staging server for use in a content delivery network wherein third party content is cached on and served from a set of content servers in response to end user requests, comprising:

5   a processor; and

code executable by the processor for (a) receiving a batch request identifying a set of content files that have been validated to be purged from the content delivery network; and (b) responsive to a poll received from a

10   content server, serving the batch request to the content server to enable purging of the content files.

11.   In a content delivery network wherein third party content is cached on and served from a set of content servers in response to end user requests, the improvement
5   comprising:

a purge mechanism for selectively identifying and removing given content files from the set of content servers, comprising:

a Web-based interface for identifying content
10   files to be purged from the content delivery network;

a purge server for receiving purge requests pushed from the Web-based interface, validating each purge request, batching a set of purge requests into an aggregate purge request;

15   a set of staging servers for receiving the aggregate purge request pushed from the purge server; and

code executing on a given content server for periodically polling a given staging server, for
20   pulling the aggregate purge request, and for removing the identified content files from the content server.

12. In the content delivery network as described in Claim 11 wherein the given content server includes code for inhibiting data sharing between the given content server and another content server in the content delivery network

5   if a given purge request has already been processed.